

For Immediate Release

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(**Washington, D.C.**) - Congressman Albio Sires announced today that the City of Union City will receive a \$268,305 grant to create a summer youth program for the next three summers for the youth of the city. The funding was awarded by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 as part of the Union City's initiative against violence.

"As we have seen violence increase throughout the nation and in densely populated areas like Hudson County programs like these provide young people with an alternative," said Congressman Sires. "Our youth must address numerous pitfalls on a daily basis like poverty, drug and alcohol use, and limited anger management skills, which often turns young people into willing candidates for gang recruitment."

The City of Union City plans on creating a summer program that will include sports, arts, field trips and a Junior Police Academy with a strong emphasis on mentoring and adult presence. This program will complement existing programs providing comprehensive academic enrichment and counseling programs provided by the Union City Board of Education.

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